



News Release



For Immediate Release

USDA Farm Service Agency
PO Box 670
Bozeman, MT 59771-0670

August 15, 2008

For More Information:

Glenn Patrick 406/587-6880
Val Bickwermert 406/587-6881

CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing Approved in Several Montana Counties

Bozeman, MT – The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has approved Emergency Haying and Grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for producers in Dawson, Fallon, McCone, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Wibaux counties. Emergency Grazing on CRP acres had been approved for Blaine and Glacier Counties. All of Phillips County is approved for Emergency Grazing but only North of Highway 2 is approved for Emergency Haying on CRP acres. .

The approval was based on the counties precipitation and forage loss for the previous 4 months and/or the U.S Drought Monitor D3 designation.

CRP participants must receive written approval from their local FSA county committee, or its representative, prior to haying or grazing eligible acreage. Producers must leave 50 percent of each field or contiguous fields unhayed for wildlife. Provisions for grazing CRP acres include: 1) producers can not rent or lease the grazing privilege for an amount greater than the applicable payment reduction; and 2) producers shall leave at least 25 percent of a field or contiguous field for wildlife or graze no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate. All livestock must be removed when all the AUM's are utilized but no later than September 30, 2008. A payment reduction of 10 percent will be applied to all CRP Emergency and Managed haying and grazing requests.

Before haying or grazing, eligible livestock producers who are renting or leasing eligible acreage from a CRP participant must receive prior written approval from the local FSA county committee, or its representative, and sign a statement that he or she will not sublease CRP acreage. CRP participants who fail to comply with these provisions to graze CRP acres without written approval are subject to noncompliance.

For further information on CRP, logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> or visit your local USDA Service Center.